

CATHERINE CONNOR

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**Topic 1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW**

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I don't believe that native forest logging is unsustainable. I understand that estimations by the Forestry Corporation of the amount of harvestable timber are consistently over estimated, and that the yield from public native forests has declined by 40% since 2010.

Protections for mature trees were removed in 2018 and logging was intensified to try and get more wood from native forests. This seriously reduces biomass and carbon storage, and removing mature trees takes away valuable food sources and hollow bearing trees.

174 species in NSW rely on hollows for dens and nests, logging reduces the number of hollows that will be created in native forests.

In addition, we know that native forest logging increases fire threat and intensity, erosion and water way pollution, and the penetration of weeds and other invasive species. This is unacceptable as our climate becomes more extreme.

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**Topic 2. Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values**

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Logged forests are not healthy forests. Healthy forests are critical to the whole environment and both First Nations and non-First Nations culture and identity.

Forests, particularly healthy mature forests, generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air.

There are 269 nationally listed threatened species in NSW, 150 of which are directly impacted by logging native forests. We cannot afford to continue the practice that compromises many ecosystems and habitats throughout NSW.

Mature and unlogged native forests are critical for pollinators and play a key role in pollination across the landscape, both inside and outside of forests.

In our region, native forests also provide recreation and improved health outcomes to locals and visitors alike and are a source of community pride and connection to place.

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**Topic 3. Demand for timber products, particularly as relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail**

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I understand that logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of the total log production in Australia in the year 2023. Native forest logging contributes only 2.4 million of the total 25 million cubic metres for that year.

I was also alarmed to discover that half of the logs taken from our native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported! And that 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips.

It is clear that hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for any of the uses identified in this section.

Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods.

## **Topic 4. The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs**

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I understand that plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production.

A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips.

Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry.

High-end and luxury native hardwood products should only be selectively harvested on private land and under strict conditions.

## **Topic 5. The role of State Forests in maximising the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes and options for diverse management, including Aboriginal forest management models**

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Native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW.

Native state forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impact on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement.

The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars, at the expense of the NSW public. It also additionally receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections.

We should NOT be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for threatened species. This is a climate crisis and continued logging - deforestation - undermines our environmental, economic and social wellbeing.

First Nations Ranger Programs have been hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. Programs like the Githabul Rangers have shown how First Nations knowledge and management can restore the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape

## **Topic 6. Opportunities to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits and support carbon and biodiversity markets, and mitigate and adapt to climate change risks, including the greenhouse gas emission impacts of different uses of forests and assessment of climate change risks to forests**

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Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year! That is shocking. Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year.

Logging in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value while ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets.

Climate change is driving increased risks for forest health and continued logging in native forests is exacerbating that risk.

Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence. This is serious. I hope the panel and the government are not dismissing the science.